

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11

COME-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 291454Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 786

INFO AMCONSULASMARA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISICIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10297

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET US

SUBJ: AFCC DENIAL RE US ARMS FOR ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 188624

1. ON AUGUST 27 LOCAL RADIO VOICE OF THE GOSPEL (RVOG) BROADCAST FOLLOWING SUMMARY (JUST OBTAINED) OF DEPARTMENT'S PRESS STATEMENT RE US ARMS TO ETHIOPIA. QUOTE: IN WASHINGTON, STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT UNITED STATES WILL INCREASE ITS MILITARY AID TO ETHIOPIA FOLLOWING ETHIOPIA'S REQUEST FOR NEW FUNDS BECAUSE OF ITS DIFFERENCES WITH SOMALIA. STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR MILITARY AID WAS DUE TO SOMALIA'S CLAIM TO CERTAIN AREAS OF ETHIOPIA. LAST YEAR UNITED STATES GAVE ETHIOPIA 11.3 MILLION DOLLARS FOR MILIARY PURPOSES WHIEL ETHIOPIA BOUGHT 11 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES. SPOKESMAN SAID AID TO ETHIOPIA FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR IS STILL BEING DISCUSSED. BUT THIS HAS BEEN DENIED BY COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES. UNQQUOTE. LAST SENTENCE OF RVOG TEXT
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WAS ORDERED OVER PHONE BY "MAJOR ASRATE" (PROBALY FORUTH DIV MAJOR

ASRATE DESTA, REPORTEDLY MEMBER OF AFCC INNER COMMITTEE).

2. IT IS UNCLEAR IF DENIAL REFERS TO CHANGE IN GRANT MAP, FMS, CASH SALES OR ALL, OR ONLY TO STATEMENT THT US-IEG ARMS DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE.

3. DENIAL HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT, SPECULATION AND CONFUSION AMONG LOCAL DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, WHO INQUIRING OF THIS EMBASSY WHAT AFCC MENAT. COLLEAGUES HAVE ASKED MOD TO CLAIRFY AND HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT FURTHER COMMENT UNAVAILABLE IN ABSENCE LG AMAN ANDOM (IN ERITREA).

4. OF INTERST IS FOLLOWING TEXT OF STATEMENT, APPARENTLY BASED ON EURTERS DESPATCH, ORIGINALLY PREPARED FOR BROADCAST BY RVOG BUT REJECTED BY AFCC. QUOTE: REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON SAY THAT ETHIOPIA PLANS TO SPEND 100 MILLION US DOLLARS TO MOSERNIZE ITS ARMED FORCES. QUOTING INFORMED SOURCESN THE REPORTS SAY ETIOPIA IS AFTER NEWW TANKS, ARMORED PERSONNAL CARRIERS AND PLANES. INITIAL DELIVERY OF 12 AMERICAN M-60 TANKS IS EXPECTED IN COUNTRY IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. SOURCES SAID AS MANY AS 36 TANKS MAY BE BROUGHT FROM UNITED STATES ALONG WITH 30 ARMORED TROOP CARIERS. ETHIOPIA WAS ALSO EXPECTED TO PURCHASE UP TO 12 A-37 CESSNA JETS FOR CLOSE AIR SUPPORT OF TROOPS AND ABOUT SAME NUMBER OF ADVANCED NORTHROP FLIGHTERS. THE PRUCHASES, ON CASH AND CREDIT SALES TERMS, WOULD DEPEND TO SOME EXTENT ON HOW MUCH MONEY ETHIOPIA COULD RAISE FROM EURPEAN COUNTRIES AND OIL-RICH ARAB STATES, SOURCES SAID. ETHIOPIA'S ARMED FORCES AT PRESENT ARE EQUIPPED WITH 15 OLDER MODEL NORTHROP F-5 FIGHTERS, ABOUT A DOZEN F-86 SABRE JETS AND ABOUT 50 M-41 TANKS. END QUOTE.
WYMAN

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